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U.S. Assails Spy Trial in East Berlin

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BERLIN (UPI)—The United States today denounced as "travesty of justice" the conviction of a young American in East Berlin as a spy. Western officials said they suspected a frameup.

Peter Feinauer, a 27-year-old West Berlin resident from Providence, R.I., was sentenced yesterday to 15 years imprisonment at a closed trial on charges of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency and helping East Germans escape to the West.

A U.S. spokesman said the United States took a serious view of the trial.

Other western officials agreed. They said it had all the earmarks of a frameup.

Feinauer was arrested in East Berlin Oct. 7, 1966, and was held almost a year without specific charges, according to a U.S. mission spokesman.

"Such a period of detention was unjustified and unconscionable," the spokesman said.

"That travesty of justice has now been compounded by convicting him in camera (in secret)."

Western officials were not allowed to attend the trial, so their knowledge of the proceedings was limited to reports carried by the official East German news service ADN.

They said the ADN account made it appear that no specific evidence was presented to back up charges which they described as "flimsy and couched in very general terms."

Feinauer, both of whose parents were born in Germany, graduated from Providence's Classical High School in 1957. He came to Berlin with his mother in 1959, after his father died.